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May Milk Production up 0.8 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during May totaled 19.0 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from May 2022. April revised production, at 18.4 billion pounds, was up 0.6 percent from April 2022. The April revision represented an increase of 23 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,126 pounds for May, 11 pounds above May 2022.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.95 million head, 24,000 head more than May 2022, but unchanged from April 2023.

May Milk Production in the United States up 0.6 Percent

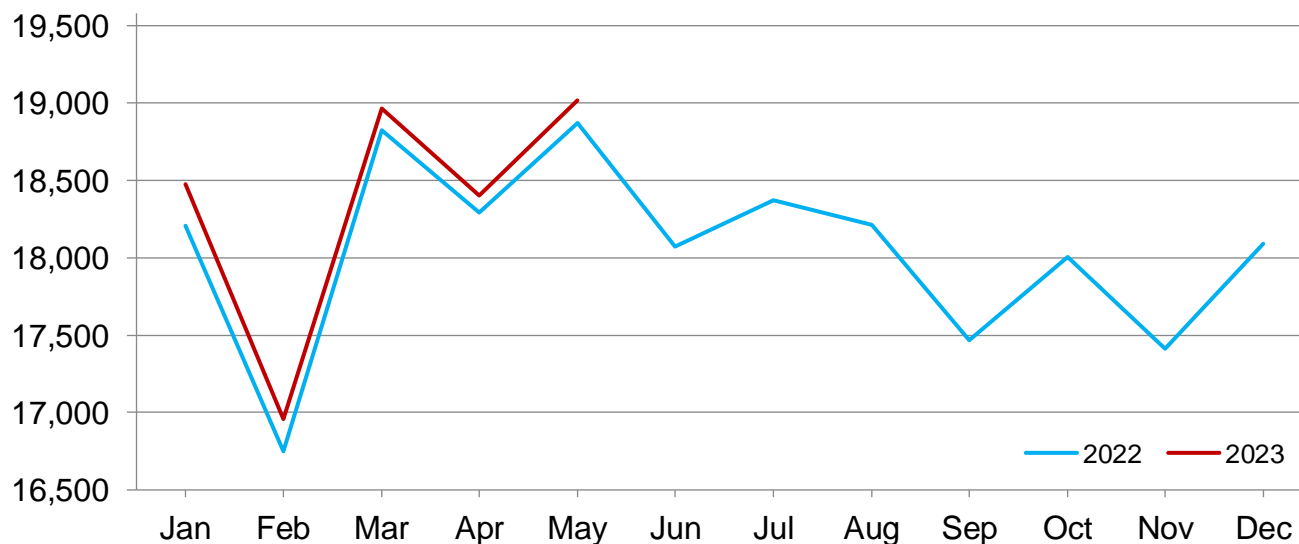
Milk production in the United States during May totaled 19.9 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from May 2022.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,108 pounds for May, 10 pounds above May 2022.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.43 million head, 13,000 head more than May 2022, but unchanged from April 2023.

Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2022-2023

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,384	9,427	6,000	6,031	56,305	56,858	1.0
April-June	9,411		6,144		57,822		
July-September	9,408		5,999		56,438		
October-December	9,404		5,944		55,897		
Annual	9,402		24,087		226,462		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2022-2023

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,876	8,927	2,051	2,069	18,205	18,474	1.5
February	8,885	8,946	1,885	1,896	16,750	16,958	1.2
March	8,908	8,959	2,113	2,117	18,827	18,962	0.7
April	8,908	8,945	2,053	2,057	18,291	18,401	0.6
May	8,921	8,945	2,115	2,126	18,871	19,017	0.8
June	8,915		2,027		18,074		
July	8,920		2,060		18,373		
August	8,927		2,040		18,212		
September	8,927		1,957		17,470		
October	8,931		2,016		18,005		
November	8,924		1,951		17,413		
December	8,918		2,029		18,093		
Annual	8,913		24,300		216,584		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2022-2023

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,367	9,407	2,034	2,053	19,050	19,311	1.4
February	9,380	9,429	1,870	1,880	17,540	17,726	1.1
March	9,404	9,446	2,096	2,098	19,715	19,821	0.5
April	9,404	9,430	2,036	2,039	19,147	19,232	0.4
May	9,417	9,430	2,098	2,108	19,755	19,875	0.6
June	9,413		2,010		18,920		
July	9,413		2,038		19,180		
August	9,406		2,022		19,016		
September	9,406		1,939		18,242		
October	9,412		1,998		18,809		
November	9,404		1,934		18,184		
December	9,396		2,012		18,904		
Annual	9,402		24,087		226,462		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: May 2022 and 2023

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	199	196	2,175	2,180	433	427	-1.4
California	1,722	1,719	2,130	2,120	3,668	3,644	-0.7
Colorado	206	205	2,235	2,235	460	458	-0.4
Florida	99	92	1,815	1,825	180	168	-6.7
Georgia	92	92	1,920	1,940	177	178	0.6
Idaho	653	670	2,200	2,210	1,437	1,481	3.1
Illinois	80	79	1,915	1,935	153	153	-
Indiana	187	189	2,060	2,070	385	391	1.6
Iowa	234	239	2,125	2,135	497	510	2.6
Kansas	173	180	2,080	2,070	360	373	3.6
Michigan	427	435	2,380	2,385	1,016	1,037	2.1
Minnesota	452	454	1,980	2,020	895	917	2.5
New Mexico	292	282	2,165	2,155	632	608	-3.8
New York	623	630	2,190	2,210	1,364	1,392	2.1
Ohio	251	252	1,920	1,945	482	490	1.7
Oregon	127	124	1,835	1,840	233	228	-2.1
Pennsylvania	467	466	1,890	1,885	883	878	-0.6
South Dakota	178	190	1,985	1,975	353	375	6.2
Texas	644	645	2,225	2,240	1,433	1,445	0.8
Utah	94	93	2,030	2,030	191	189	-1.0
Vermont	118	118	1,880	1,890	222	223	0.5
Virginia	70	67	1,820	1,845	127	124	-2.4
Washington	260	259	2,075	2,095	540	543	0.6
Wisconsin	1,273	1,269	2,160	2,195	2,750	2,785	1.3
24-State Total	8,921	8,945	2,115	2,126	18,871	19,017	0.8

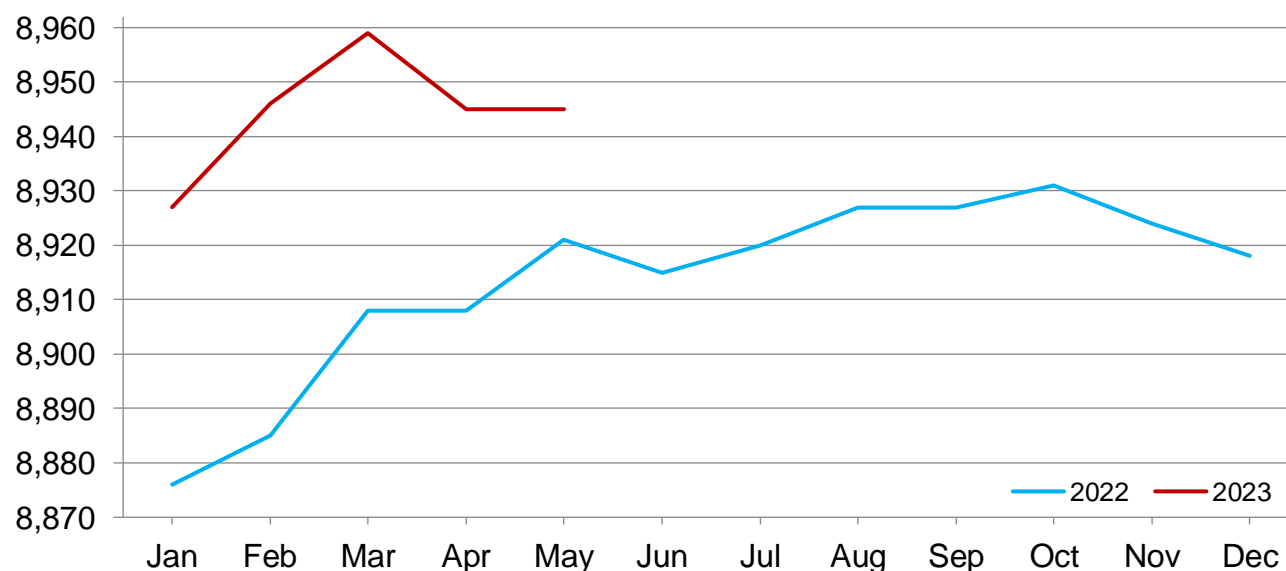
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: April 2022 and 2023

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2022
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	199	196	2,175	2,185	433	428	-1.2
California	1,721	1,720	2,100	2,060	3,614	3,543	-2.0
Colorado	204	205	2,160	2,165	441	444	0.7
Florida	98	92	1,785	1,805	175	166	-5.1
Georgia	91	92	1,930	1,960	176	180	2.3
Idaho	653	669	2,110	2,105	1,378	1,408	2.2
Illinois	80	79	1,880	1,860	150	147	-2.0
Indiana	187	189	2,000	2,010	374	380	1.6
Iowa	231	239	2,065	2,065	477	494	3.6
Kansas	171	180	2,005	2,000	343	360	5.0
Michigan	427	435	2,290	2,305	978	1,003	2.6
Minnesota	453	454	1,900	1,945	861	883	2.6
New Mexico	292	282	2,125	2,135	621	602	-3.1
New York	620	630	2,105	2,130	1,305	1,342	2.8
Ohio	251	252	1,840	1,875	462	473	2.4
Oregon	128	125	1,765	1,770	226	221	-2.2
Pennsylvania	467	466	1,830	1,835	855	855	-
South Dakota	177	189	1,900	1,895	336	358	6.5
Texas	640	645	2,180	2,190	1,395	1,413	1.3
Utah	94	92	1,945	1,940	183	178	-2.7
Vermont	118	118	1,820	1,820	215	215	-
Virginia	70	67	1,800	1,800	126	121	-4.0
Washington	263	261	2,000	2,035	526	531	1.0
Wisconsin	1,273	1,268	2,075	2,095	2,641	2,656	0.6
24-State Total	8,908	8,945	2,053	2,057	18,291	18,401	0.6

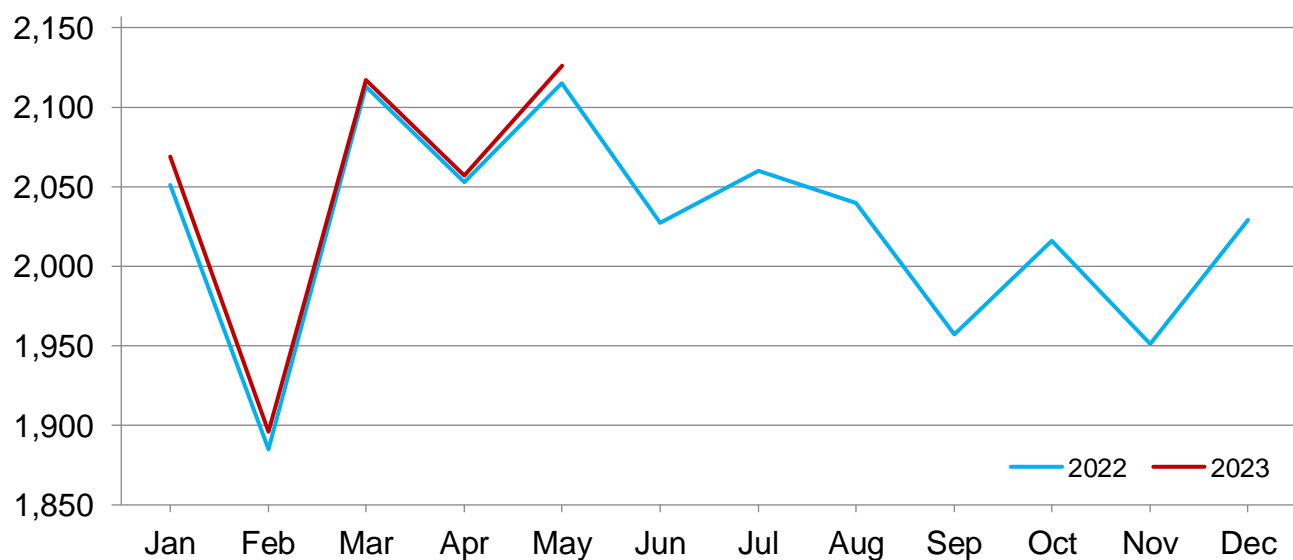
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States

Pounds



Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. Individual States maintain a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. States use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. Generally, all large producers and a sample of small producers are included in the survey. Questionnaires are mailed to producers near the end of the month to obtain data for the first day of the month. Additional reports are obtained by telephone, as needed, to supplement the mail response. Where feasible, States utilize state and federal administrative data to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies such as Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Dairy Market News. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Survey.

Estimation Procedures: Regional Field Offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Milk production, milk per cow, and number of milk cows are subject to revision the following month after initial publication for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, administrative data from Federal Market Orders, State Departments of Agriculture, or other sources are the main basis for revisions. However, administrative data for all States may not be available in time for these revisions. Estimates are again subject to revisions in February each year based on additional administrative data. In the event that additional changes are necessary, a third revision is possible in February the following year. Estimates are again reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions are made after that date.

Reliability: Since all operations with dairy animals are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for the 24 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 19.0 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.4 percent.

Reliability of Monthly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.2	0.4	33	3	93	10	14
All Milk cows	0.1	0.2	6	0	29	10	11

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@usda.gov.

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Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows.....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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